

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 663

By Berke

A RESOLUTION endorsing health care reform.

WHEREAS, the standard of comprehensive, affordable health care coverage tied to employment that unions have built over five decades is being eroded by rapidly rising health care costs; and

WHEREAS, children and pre-Medicare retirees are at high risk of losing employer-provided health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, health care expenditures per person in the United States are twice that of the average industrialized nation; and

WHEREAS, excessive costs are threatening the health care benefits of public sector workers; and

WHEREAS, the ranks of uninsured Americans jumped 22 percent between 2000 and 2006 and now number 47 million people, including 8.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, authoritative studies show that Americans receive the appropriate health care only half of the time when we take ill; and

WHEREAS, people of color have lower coverage rates, higher mortality rates in many disease categories, and poorer quality of health care overall; and

WHEREAS, women are less likely to be eligible for or able to afford their part of employer-sponsored health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly endorses health care reform based upon and supported by the following principles:

- (1) Controlling rising and irrational costs;

- (2) Providing comprehensive, high-quality health care to all;
- (3) Giving every family the opportunity and responsibility for preventive health care;
- (4) Preserving the right to choose and use one's own doctor;
- (5) Lowering employer costs and, in return, asking employers to pay their fair share, along with government and individuals; and
- (6) Building on what is best about American health care while drawing from what works elsewhere.